



St Thomas' CE Infant School

Proposal – To open a Nursery Unit at ST THOMAS' CE INFANT SCHOOL

To lower the age range of St Thomas' CE Infant School, from 4 to 7 years to 2 to 7 years to ensure the school meets the needs of local families, and provides an education to pupils below reception age.

The Governing Body of St Thomas' CE Infant School is consulting with you on the proposal to lower the admissions age of St Thomas' CE Infant School to enable us to have a nursery on our school site.

This proposal will ensure a consistent approach to learning for our youngest children and enable us to meet some of the needs of the local community in relation to Early Years educational provision. From research carried out we believe our nursery would help provide families with school based full-time provision.

The proposed nursery would be situated in the current Badgers Classroom and have access to an outside area. It would be a small nursery unit with a maximum capacity of **22** children per session.

We appreciate many families with and without children, our neighbours, local residents and current Early Years providers will have a number of questions. We have put together an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) style information sheet attached to this letter. We hope that this may answer some of your initial queries.

Consultation Timeline: Responses should be received throughout **the consultation period of four weeks – from Monday 23 June 2025 to Sunday 20 July 2025**. Results will be analysed and the school will publish the outcome on its website.

How can I respond to this consultation?

Please complete the consultation response form (below) and return to the school.

Or complete the consultation form online here:

<https://forms.gle/ow6LXMYfKjtAy6rk7>

Alternatively, please email the school at adminoffice@st-thomas.hants.sch.uk

If you would like to speak to someone in person regarding the proposals, Mr Paul Davies, Executive Headteacher or Mr. Chris McGowan, Chair of Governors would be more than happy to talk with you.

Please telephone the school office on 01635 253431 to arrange a convenient time.

Please note this is currently a consultation process and no final decision of whether a nursery will be opened has yet been made.

Regards

Governors of The Schools of Woolton Hill

The St Thomas' CE Infant School Nursery Consultation Response Form

Proposal to lower the age range of St Thomas' CE Infant School from 4 to 7 years to 2 to 7 years to ensure the school meets the needs of local families: – opening a school-based nursery.

Name

(Optional) _____

Relationship with the school:

_____ (For example, parent / local business.)

In my opinion– **positives** for the proposed nursery and lowering the age range of St Thomas' CE Infant School from 4 to 7 years to 2 to 7 years are:

In my opinion – **disadvantages** for the proposed nursery and lowering the age range of St Thomas' CE Infant School from 4 to 7 years to 2 to 7 years.

My concerns would be:



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Proposal – To open nursery unit at St Thomas' CE Infant School

To lower the age range of St Thomas' CE Infant School from 4 to 7 years to 2 to 7 years to ensure the school meets the needs of local families.

We know that many people will have questions regarding the proposals to lower the age range of the school to allow a nursery on site. Therefore, we have tried to answer the questions that we feel may arise. If you have anything else you would like to ask, please contact Paul Davies, Executive Headteacher adminoffice@st-thomas.hants.sch.uk

Why are we proposing to lower the entry age of the children joining our school?

Supporting the government's policy on providing 30 hours Funded Early Education for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds in schools, we propose for our school to open a nursery and provide a secure, stimulating, quality nursery provision.

Will the proposal have any impact on the school's admissions arrangements?

It is proposed that we would offer 22 places. Opening at 7.30am to 6pm, 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year. It is important to note there is no automatic right for nursery aged children to gain a Reception place at St Thomas' CE Infant School. Parents of nursery aged children would need to apply in the normal way for admissions to the school. It would not change the current admissions process.

Do the Governors and staff support the proposal?

The Governing Body and staff support the proposal as they believe the school community would benefit from lowering the entry age of pupils to include a nursery. We have consulted with Quackers breakfast/after-school club and we do not expect the nursery to impact on current wrap-around provision.

How many children will the nursery take?

We would take a maximum of 22 children per session.

Where will the nursery be based?

The nursery will be based in the former Badgers classroom. The nursery children will have access to the outside areas of the school but also a designated Early Years area.

Will the nursery have its own secure access?

At the beginning and end of each session, entrance to the nursery would be through the 'Red Outside Door' next to Badgers class.

What do you plan to do about any extra traffic the nursery and extended schools service may cause?

We anticipate that the majority of the children in the nursery would be siblings of children that already attend the infants school, or would be very local. This, combined with staggered arrival and departures (outside of normal school hours) will minimize disruption. We would encourage and promote a 'walk to school' culture with the support of our local businesses.

I have a child at St Thomas' CE Infant School will this affect their education?

The proposed nursery would not affect the quality of education offered to St Thomas' CE Infant School children. The nursery would never run at a financial loss to the school. School facilities may be used by the nursery but never to the detriment of other school pupils.

The surrounding area already has nurseries and other pre-schools provision. Why do we need another one?

As of September 2025, the Woolton Hill Village will no longer have a pre-school provision. We have identified that the provision offered for pupils in a nursery within a school-based nursery, will offer a continuity of education and upward trajectory of progress for EYFS pupils through the foundation stage curriculum. Comparative research indicates that the transition from Nursery to Reception, slows the progress of pupils attending from another setting. This also aids the social and emotional development of EYFS pupils through daily interaction with their peers in the Year R class.

Our nursery would be teacher led, offering full time places. This builds the stamina of pupils helping them to be school ready. It means that parents who receive 30 hours funded childcare can use all 30 hours at our proposed nursery including lunchtime (7.30am – 6pm, 5 days a week).

Have you considered the additional noise that a nursery would cause?

Yes. With a maximum of 22 children per session and access to inside and outside learning areas, there would be limited impact. The nursery outside area would be along a boundary fence, however this backs onto the recreation fields and we anticipate no additional noise.